

Message Text

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ACTION INR-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 DODE-00 OES-07 EB-08

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FM AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3433

INFO USDOC WASHDC

USMISSION GENEVA

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: ENRG, ECRP, BEXP, CZ

SUBJECT: CZECHOSLOVAK DATA ON FUELS AND ENERGY

REF: STATE 187197 (NOTAL)

1. EIGHT MONTHS AFTER FIRST REQUESTING APPOINTMENT, E/C COUNSELOR WAS RECEIVED AUGUST 18 BY ING. VIKTOR HORAK, HEAD OF INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION DEPARTMENT, MINISTRY OF FUELS AND ENERGY. (HORAK REPLACED OTO PUCHTA IN THIS JOB IN LATE 1976). ALSO PRESENT WAS JINDRICH ZUNA, DIRECTOR OF MINISTRY'S DEPT. OF SUPPLIES PROCUREMENT AND FOREIGN TRADE.

2. DURING CORDIAL, HOUR-LONG INTRODUCTORY SESSION, WHICH COVERED MANY ENERGY TOPICS, E/C COUNSELOR GAVE HORAK INFORMATION PUBLISHED BY BUREAU OF MINES AND EMPHASIZED OUR STRONG DESIRE TO RECEIVE MORE INFORMATION ON CZECHOSLOVAK ENERGY SITUATION, PARTICULARLY ON IMPORTS (REFTEL). AFTER THEIR ATTENTION WAS DRAWN TO CSCE BASKET II LANGUAGE CALLING FOR GREATER AVAILABILITY OF ECONOMIC STATISTICS AND TO FACT GOC HAS BEEN EXTREMELY SECRETIVE ON ENERGY MATTERS IN PAST, ZUNA SAID THAT ONLY DATA WHICH CAN BE MADE AVAILABLE ARE THOSE WHICH GOC PROVIDES TO U.N. ECONOMIC COMMISSION

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FOR EUROPE. WHEN PRESSED TO MAKE THAT INFORMATION AVAILABLE DIRECTLY TO EMBASSY, ZUNA BECAME VAGUE, HINTED HE WOULD TRY TO DO SOMETHING BUT PROMISED NOTHING.

3. BOTH ZUNA AND HORAK WERE KEEN TO RECEIVE MORE INFORMATION ON ENERGY-MINING PRODUCTS WHICH US EXHIBIT WILL FEATURE AT 1978 BRNO ENGINEERING FAIR.

(HE DISCUSSED THIS WITH ANDREW ELIAS, USDOC/BEWT, ON JULY 8). ZUNA EXPRESSED INTEREST IN OILFIELD DRILLING EQUIPMENT FOR DEPTHS OF SIX TO SEVEN THOUSAND METERS. HE WOULD GIVE NO OTHER SPECIFIC EXAMPLES OF PRODUCTS WITH GOOD SALES PROSPECTS.

4. COMMENT: DESPITE SMILES AND TOASTS, THIS MEETING NOT SURPRISINGLY INDICATES THAT MINISTRY WILL CONTINUE TO BE A DRY HOLE RATHER THAN SOURCE OF HARD INFORMATION ON GOC ENERGY SITUATION. WE ARE TRYING TO OBTAIN LOCALLY ECE DATA ZUNA MENTIONED BUT WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING ANY INFORMATION WHICH DEPARTMENT OR GENEVA COULD SUPPLY US FROM ECE SOURCES.
FROWICK

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